

[17 August, 20001]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) The losses of Delhi Milk Scheme have not increased after the hike in the sale price of milk.

(d) Not applicable in view of (c) above.

Vacant posts at CIFA

2637. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of posts of scientists and technicians are lying vacant in CIFA at Kausalya, Ganga in Orissa; and

(b) what steps Government propose to fill such vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Necessary action for filling up the vacant posts has already been initiated.

Project under NWDPR and WDPSCA

2638. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Government of Tripura comprising of projects under National Watershed Development Project Rainfed Areas (NWDPR) and Watershed Development Project Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government to the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have received project proposals from Tripura for 44 new watersheds under National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR) and 60 watersheds under the scheme, Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA). The NWDPR proposal

envisages coverage of 27,847 ha. at a cost of Rs. 27.84 crores; the WDPSCA proposals envisage coverage of 44,427 ha. at an estimated cost of Rs. 88.85 crores.

(c) During the IX Plan, 46 watersheds are under implementation with a total allocation of Rs. 18.00 crores under NWDPA. Against which, the utilization of the funds by the State during first three years is only Rs. 7.78 crores. Keeping in view the limited capacity of the State for utilization of currently allocated funds, it does not appear feasible to take up additional watersheds during the IX Plan.

Total IX Plan outlay under the WDPSCA for seven North Eastern States is Rs. 75.00 crores. In view of the available resources it is not possible to allocate Rs. 88.85 crores to one State. Moreover, the peak utilization of the State in any one year has been Rs. 1.00 crore only. Hence 11 out of the 60 watersheds were included under the WDPSCA.

Subsidy to Drip Irrigation

2639. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government continue with the subsidy scheme provided to the drip irrigation;

(b) what is the impact of the scheme on its farming community in the used scarce water resources; and

(c) the total amount of requirement of subsidy sought by Karnataka State, and the details thereof and by when the amount will be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. Assistance for drip irrigation is being continued during the Ninth Plan under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Development of Horticulture through Plasticulture Interventions.

(b) Implementation of the scheme has created awareness about the positive role of drip irrigation in saving of water and